

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1907.—Copyright, 1907, by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

ALEXANDRA OF ENGLAND BUYS HER GIFTS AT HOME.

Efforts to Lease Blenheim Palace—Women Shut Out of Learned Societies—American Influence in London—Kaiser Above and Beyond German Law—A Greek Girl Who is a Wonder With Numbers—The Pope's Watch—Pope's Clergyman in England.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The season of Christmas shopping has begun and the Queen will spend the greater part of next week in town to buy the innumerable Christmas gifts that she always sends to her multitude of relatives and friends.

Queen Alexandra is an industrious shopper. She personally selects every gift with a view to the taste of the one who will receive it. She does not visit the shops of the various tradesmen, but does her shopping at home.

Special rooms are allotted at Buckingham Palace, and in them the royal warrant holders arrange a large display of seasonable gifts. The price of every article is marked in plain figures, and no salesmen are in attendance, though there are often representatives of the different tradesmen within call in case the Queen should want to ask questions.

Once more there is talk of the Duke of Marlborough being anxious to find a tenant for Blenheim Palace and taking a smaller estate in the midland counties for himself. Blenheim is an enormously expensive place to keep up, and the late Duke was probably guilty of only a small exaggeration when he once declared in the National Sporting Club that the place cost him £250 a year for putty because of the large number of windows the house contains.

There was some talk a little while ago of Whitelaw Reid taking the place, but it is understood that this idea has now dropped and that a South African mining magnate may become the tenant.

Blenheim, like St. Paul's, is the home of the Duke of Wellington, is held direct from the Crown at the feudal rent of one miniature Union Jack flag a year, which is received by the King and placed in Windsor Castle, where the successive flags are to be seen.

The British Admiralty is great on detail. A special messenger has just been sent down to the Channel fleet with an order that no more postal orders for sixpence shall be issued to the men. The sailors had succumbed to the limerick competition craze to such an extent that their demand for sixpenny orders to send along with their fifth line and coupon became a source of annoyance, giving a lot of extra work to the accountants.

So the sixpenny order has now been added to the list of prohibited things, which includes parrots, monkeys, snakes, and most recent of all, diabolo.

In bestowing the Order of Merit on Miss Florence Nightingale the King has given a lead which some of the British learned bodies may now be inclined to follow.

The Royal Academy never elects a woman to membership; the Royal Society cannot admit a woman to fellowship. The Royal Astronomical Society should not elect a woman astronomer no matter how distinguished, to membership. It has done so, Lady Huggins being one of several women who have been thus distinguished. But a new charter will have to be sought to legalize these elections.

The Royal Society stands fast by its rule. A year or so ago six Fellows of the society nominated Mrs. Ayrton for a fellowship. Mrs. Ayrton is one of the most distinguished electrical engineers in the country, is the inventor and constructor of a line divider, discovered the connection between current length and pressure in the arc, the cause and laws of hissing in it, and is the only woman member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. But the six Fellows and Mrs. Ayrton were informed that the council, having taken legal advice, were assured that the thing could not be done.

Even more absurd was the case of Mme. Curie. It was she, not her late husband, who discovered radium. She worked out the wonderful experiments and originated the schemes by which the precious material was finally isolated, but the Royal Society would not admit her to fellowship; it only gave her a medal.

Alfred Moely has now received nearly all of the reports of the English teachers who lately toured the United States, and will soon issue a summary of their opinions. Speaking of the general impression formed from the reports he says:

"Generally speaking the teachers have found that there is a lot to learn from the American methods. This is particularly the case in regard to elementary education. They have seen that in developing the initiative of a boy or girl, for instance, the United States schools are far ahead of ours. The children are taught to seek the way and whereof of things, and to acquire knowledge on their own account. The higher education of Americans is

mostly applied science and little else, and the reports speak of improvements which might be made on English lines in this direction."

The Bavarian Ministry of War has made some extensive experiments with a view to ascertaining the effect of indulgence in alcoholic beverages on the shooting powers of soldiers. The tests were conducted under the supervision of experienced officers at the ranges near Augsburg, and the general results obtained from firing 10,000 rounds are now published.

They show that when shooting singly soldiers who had recently drunk alcoholic liquor made more accurate hits than men who had not done so. When shooting in companies, however, which is a more important feature in war time, the aim of men who had just previously indulged in alcoholic beverages was slightly worse than that of men who had not done so.

These experiments are to be continued systematically by the Bavarian military authorities.

The production of "The New York Idea" at the Apollo Theatre has moved a writer to moralize on the influence of Americans on English society. After pointing out that the heroine of the Victorian era, the girl of sweet 17, has been relegated to the background, while the young married woman has taken her place, he declares that this change is due to American influence.

"In the United States girls are much more independent than they are with us. Everybody knows that. This independence not only brings with it greater self-reliance, but it also develops prematurely the social faculties—the two supreme faculties of getting what you want and making other people do what you don't want to do yourself."

"There are no children in America in one sense of the word. They are all little men and women in the poise, alertness and self-confidence of their intercourse with others. And as there are no children so there are no young girls of the old fashioned English, artless and sentimental type."

"There are none. There never have been any and there never will be. And because there are no young girls there are no lynx-eyed and authoritative mothers. The average American mother is a portly, beaming domestic person, who lets her children do pretty much what they choose and believes that all is for the best in the best of all possible countries. In England society is under the thumb of the mother with marriageable daughters."

"When with increasing prosperity and growing social ambitions Americans began to come over to England in steadily augmenting numbers, the American girl unconsciously achieved a social revolution. Not that she was fabulously pretty—there are ten times as many pretty girls in England as in America. But she was socially and mentally far in advance of the English girl of the same age, who had been brought up under stricter supervision."

"It was quite natural that man began to look for more in the girls with whom he associated—more wit, more 'savoir faire,' more social adaptability. He could not find it in the young girl. He found it in the young married woman."

"So he began to transfer his attentions, except in the comparatively few cases where actual marriage was involved. Unconsciously sensitive to changes in popular feeling, novelists and playwrights followed suit, and thus we have our plays and novels beginning where they used to leave off—at marriage."

"Man being but human, the growing influence in society of the young married woman naturally led to an increase in the number of divorces, and by further consequence to a diminishing regard for the sanctity of marriage, which may regard as the most serious social problem of the day."

"Not so many years ago divorce was looked upon by the immense majority of people with horror, and a woman who had been divorced, whether for her own fault or no, was barred from society. Nowadays it is looked upon very much as Americans regard a term of imprisonment—as a thing which might happen to any one and which does not imperil one's social position in the least."

The Kaiser's visit to Highcliffe Castle has been of the greatest benefit to him. It has also been of benefit to the tiny village of Highcliffe and has galvanized it into something resembling activity.

The Kaiser has been delighted with the courtesy shown him by old and young during his stay at the castle, and particularly with the way the school children have cheered him whenever his automobile passed through the village. He decided to acknowledge these attentions by a tea in the schoolhouse to which all the children of Highcliffe were invited yesterday.

The awestruck youngsters, all in their very best and wearing rosettes of German colors, filed into the schoolroom at promptly 4:30 and only British self-repression prevented shrieks of joy. Instead of ink stained desks there were long tables loaded with dishes of cake and choice fruits, candies and mottos, those joys of all children's

parties, while overhead were flags and banners and chains of paper flowers.

The Kaiser was taking a motor ride and did not reach the schoolhouse till after 5, so the children were told that they might take the edge off their appetites by eating the bread and butter, but on no account must they do anything more than cast longing glances at the delicacies on the table until the arrival of their host. When the Kaiser came the children cheered him to the echo and after accepting three bouquets from small girls who were delegated to present them and who were so paralyzed with terror that their speeches were frozen on their lips and never got any further, William II. thoughtfully proceeded to the real business of the afternoon.

In the centre of the room was a big cake made by the chef at Highcliffe Castle. It was in six tiers and with its pedestal stood about six feet in height. It was elaborately decorated with small images and flowers and on the very summit was a sugar fountain.

As the Kaiser strode toward this marvel of a cake even awe childhood could stand no more and the boys gasped audibly while the girls literally squeaked with delight. With a huge carving knife a large piece of the culinary monument was cut out by the Emperor, and the school teacher distributed it among the children.

Not a single youngster so much as nibbled at his portion. Each piece was carefully held in a moist little hand to be delivered to a waiting parent outside. Evidently every child had been warned on

no account to touch the precious morsel but to bring it intact to be guarded as a souvenir of the Kaiser's tea party.

All this was a ten minute episode in the life of the Kaiser, but to Highcliffe it was an event which will make it hold up its head with the most important town in England. If any one ever dares to distrust the Kaiser's policy toward Great Britain in this village undoubtedly they will be driven ignominiously from its precincts.

There has been so much gossip of late over the rumored alliance of a rich American woman and a member of the Sagan family that the American colony in Paris has been deeply interested in an article which appeared lately in a French paper on the former grandeur and present decadence of some great French families.

In this article are rather pathetic details of the life of the former Prince de Sagan, once the arbiter of French fashion, the idol of the Parisians and the oracle of cultivated Europe. This Prince, who is now the Duc de Talleyrand and Sagan, is at present living in a miserable little room in the Rue Dominique, abandoned by all relatives and friends and with an income which is just enough to maintain him.

The fortune he inherited from his father rapidly dissolved after he assumed control of it. His estate in Silesia was sequestered by royal order and only a small annual income was given to him.

To add to all this he became the victim

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Autos with two seats, \$4.98.	Jointed Dolls, 17 inches long, with eye-lashes or parted wigs, 60c. kind, at 49c.	Lanterns, \$19.00 kind, at \$12.98; \$13.00 kind, at \$8.98; \$7.00 kind at \$4.98.
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1 Electric Auto, \$450.00 kind, guaranteed to run, \$108.00.		Large Steam Engines at half price, from \$4.98 to \$44.98 upward.
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100 Curtains, 55c. a pair \$3.50 Curtains, \$1.50 a pair \$2.25 Curtains, \$1.10 a pair \$1.50 Curtains, \$2.20 a pair \$2.75 Curtains, \$1.30 a pair \$3.45 Curtains, \$2.98 a pair \$10.00 to \$18.00 real Rembrandt ruffled Bed Sets, put up in fancy Christmas box, \$6.85 each.

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Pipe Racks, 40c. to \$4.95 ea. Indian Baskets, \$1.35 to \$3.50 each.
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Black, white and cloth shades, tan and modes.
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Bird, \$32.00 value, at \$19.00. 7 rose diamonds and 7 rubies, set in platinum.	Branch, \$150.00 value, at \$99.00. 31 diamonds, 4 whole pearls, set in platinum.	Bat, \$85.00 value, at \$46.00. 1 ruby, 14k. gold.
Head, \$40.00 value, at \$24.00. Rose finished, 1 diamond, 14k. gold.	Scroll, \$105.00 value, at \$110.00. 7 diamonds, in 14k. gold.	Clusters, \$95.00 value, at \$56.00. 5 diamonds, 4 sapphires, 14k. gold.
Tree Stone, \$65.00 value, at \$38.00. Set diagonally, 2 diamonds and 1 ruby mounted in platinum.	Harvest Moon, \$140.00 value, at \$107.00. 12 diamonds and 13 whole pearls.	Marquise, \$110.00 value, at \$65.00. 11 diamonds and 14 rubies, in 14k. gold.
Wreath, \$85.00 value, at \$39.00. 18 rose diamonds and 5 emeralds, set in platinum.	Heart, \$105.00 value, at \$110.00. 44 diamonds, set in platinum.	Marquise, \$115.00 value, at \$68.00. 5 diamonds and 22 sapphires, in 14k. gold.
Cluster, \$85.00 value, \$53.00. 13 diamonds mounted in platinum.	Harvest Moon, \$195.00 value, at \$130.00. 25 diamonds, mounted in platinum and 18k. gold.	Five Stone Hoop, \$125.00 value, at \$82.00. 3 diamonds and 2 emeralds, in 18k. gold.
Horseshoe, \$235.00 value, at \$165.00. 19 diamonds set in platinum.	Crown, \$215.00 value, at \$146.00. 35 diamonds, set in platinum.	Gypsy, \$130.00 value, at \$89.00. 3 diamonds, in 14k. gold.
	Question Mark, \$230.00 value, at \$155.00. 23 diamonds, 1 whole pearl, in platinum and 18k. gold.	Fancy Belcher, \$135.00 value at \$92.00. 1 diamond, in 14k. gold.
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At \$2.98, value \$5.00. Persian paw Bowknot, satin lined.	At \$7.95, values \$11.00 to \$14.00. Isabella double fox Boas, trimmed with brushes.	At \$14.05, value \$21.00. Alaska sable (skunk) Throw Scarf, trimmed with heads and tails.
At \$4.95, value \$7.50. Sable dyed opossum long Throw Scarf, trimmed with six tails.	At \$7.75 a set, values \$10.50 to \$15.00. Caracul Sets, Throw Scarf and large Muff.	At \$10.50, value \$21.00. Black lynx Throw Scarf, satin lined.
At \$5.95 a set, value \$10.50. Caracul Paw Sets, consisting of Throw Scarf and Square Muff.	At \$7.95, value \$12.00. Persian Paw Sets, Throw Scarf and large square Muff.	At \$29.75, value \$50.00. Black lynx Shawl, trimmed with heads and tails.
At \$4.50, value \$9.00. Blended squirrel Throw Scarf, satin lined.	At \$7.95, value \$15.00. Natural or blended squirrel Sets, Throw Scarf and Pillow Muff.	At \$19.75, value \$28.50. Jap sable Scarf, double fur.
At \$7.50, value \$11.00. Sable dyed opossum Stoles and Shawls, trimmed with heads and tails.	At \$7.25, value \$10.50. Alaska sable (skunk) Throw Scarf, satin lined.	At \$34.75, value \$65.00. Natural mink Stole, a full skin, trimmed with paws and tails.

Muffs to match the above pieces at corresponding prices.

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